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FROM: Bonnie Ponwith, Ph.D. 

SUBJECT: Stock Assessment Peer Review

I am writing to invite you to attend a program review of the stock assessment processes and modeling approaches we use to develop, peer-review, and report on the status of fishery stocks in the region as required by the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The review meeting will take place in Miami, Florida, on July 8-10, 2014 at the Mayfair Hotel (<http://www.mayfairhotellandspa.com/>). The agenda will be available soon, but for planning purposes the meeting will run the full day on Tuesday-Thursday.

Similar reviews are being carried out at each of the NMFS regional science centers and at our headquarters Office of Science and Technology this year as part of a multi-year process to evaluate many aspects of our science enterprise. A team of national and international experts will conduct the upcoming peer review. The reviewers will consider both the stock assessment processes and modeling approaches, and will provide advice to the Center on the direction and quality of these program elements. Opportunities for input by partners, stakeholders and members of the public will be provided each day. Information on the meeting, background documents, a list of panelists, the agenda, and presentations prepared for the review will be posted to the Center's website at:

[http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/program\\_reviews/2014/default.htm](http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/program_reviews/2014/default.htm)

Reviewers' reports and the Center's responses will also be made available at this website later this summer. I expect this review will highlight some of our strengths but also identify areas where improvement is merited, and help us to chart a course to advance our stock assessments. I consider peer reviews to be an integral part of maintaining strong science program as we adapt to new challenges and new ideas.

I hope that you can find time to join us in Miami for the review or to visit our website and look over the documents and presentations.